

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN C. ADAMS

I, John C. Adams, hereby depose and say:

1. I am the inventor of the invention (herein "the Present Invention") described and claimed in United States Patent Application entitled "Document Builder Classes and Methods," filed herewith, attorney docket number HP 10006660-1 (herein "the Patent Application"), as well as an earlier version of similar technology (herein "the Earlier Invention"). I am providing this affidavit to be filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in support of the Patent Application. The statements in this affidavit are based on my personal knowledge or belief.

2. As I describe in more detail below, the Present Invention is an improvement to the Earlier Invention.

3. I conceived the Earlier Invention, which is certain basic features of object-oriented classes that were useful in developing HTML document generation software. The Earlier Invention was utilized at Hewlett-Packard Company during the development of a product that has become known commercially as "Network Node Manager," which was first released publicly on or about November 1999. The Earlier Invention has never been disclosed openly outside of Hewlett-Packard Company, is treated as confidential information by Hewlett-Packard Company, and is not perceptible from use of Network Node Manager.

4. Though useful, the Earlier Invention lacked several features, which were later added during development of the Present Invention. By way of illustration and not limitation, the Earlier Invention was not satisfactorily scalable and extensible, and the Earlier Invention could sometimes produce malformed or invalid HTML documents.

5. I conceived the Present Invention, in part, to address the shortcomings of the Earlier Invention. The Present Invention is successful in this regard.

6. Among the differences between the Earlier Invention and the Present Invention are the following: (a) the Earlier Invention did not define a parent-child relationship by which a child object could be stored within a storage space of a parent object; (b) the Earlier Invention did not include both a class capable of parenthood and a class incapable of parenthood, according to the parent-child relationship; and (c) the Present Invention allows the storage mechanism of a class to be optimized in ways not possible in the Earlier Invention. These are not the only differences between the Earlier Invention and the Present Invention. I may choose to indicate other differences as they become material to the Patent Application.

7. The Present Invention was reduced to practice and utilized at Hewlett-Packard Company in developing a product that has become known commercially as "HP OpenView Service Information Portal," which was first released publicly on or about August 2000. The Present Invention was never openly disclosed outside of Hewlett Packard Company (except in strict confidence to its attorneys and agent in connection with the preparation of the Patent Application), is treated by Hewlett Packard

Company as confidential, and is not perceptible from use of HP OpenView Service Information Portal.

I hereby declare that the foregoing statements are of my own knowledge, are true or believed by me to be true, and are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Executed on this 31 day of January, 2001.


JOHN C. ADAMS